

Woody Cover Control – Prairie/Glade/Savanna

Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
University of Missouri Extension – The School of Natural Resources

DECLINING COMMUNITIES

Landowner:	Farm #:
Field(s):	Tract #:
Date:	County:
Contact:	

WOODY COVER CONTROL ON PRAIRIES, GLADES, AND SAVANNAS WILL HELP RESTORE THESE DECLINING COMMUNITIES

PURPOSE:

Prairie, glade, and savanna communities were once a common site across Missouri. These communities have largely disappeared due to the elimination of fire and conversion to agriculture use. Where fire has been eliminated, invasion of dense shrubs and trees has occurred, most notably cedar. This woody vegetation has shaded out the native grasses and forbs that once dominated these areas. Removing this woody vegetation with a process known as “woody cover control” will help restore these declining communities.



SPECIFICATIONS:

- ☐ Where practical, only use chainsaws to remove unwanted woody vegetation. Heavy machinery (clippers, bulldozers) will damage prairie, glade, and savanna communities.
- ☐ Treat all stumps with appropriate herbicide to prevent re-sprouting.
- ☐ Any woody material not marketable or used as firewood should be left to burn.
- ☐ End product for glade restoration is 10-30% woody canopy evenly distributed across the site.
- ☐ End product for savanna restoration is 10-50% woody canopy evenly distributed across the site.
- ☐ End product for prairie restoration is no more than 10% woody canopy remaining.

MAINTENANCE:

- ☐ Prairie, glade, and savanna communities are best managed by the use of prescribed fire.
- ☐ Burn frequency and timing of the burns should be based on a recommendation from a resource agency representative.
- ☐ After burning, if native vegetation doesn't return, it may be necessary to plant native grasses and forbs. Contact your local NRCS or MDC office for assistance.
- ☐ Use herbicides to suppress invasive vegetation and to control noxious weeds.

PRIMARY HABITAT CONSIDERATIONS:

- Restoration and management of declining habitats.
- Provide natural food and cover for many declining animal species.

Consult with NRCS or MDC wildlife biologists and private land conservationists, or University Extension for additional recommendations.

COMMENTS



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